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SNOOP LION: DOGG GONE {page 10}

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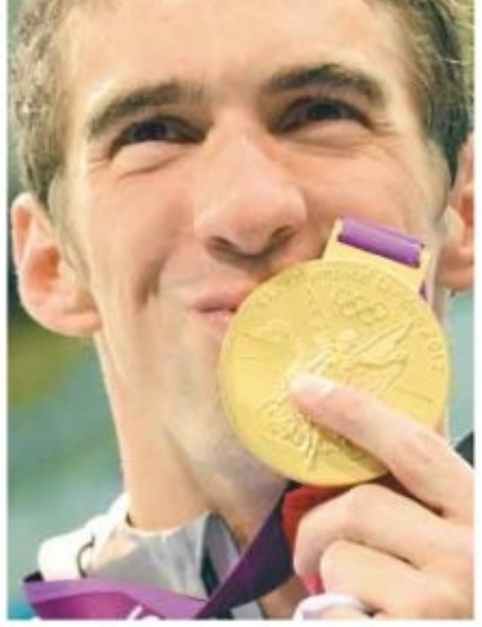
GETTY IMAGES

Dead October

Trading Victorino, Pence ended virtually all hopes for Phillies' sixth straight playoff appearance New question is how long regular season sellout streak lasts At 270 games and counting, will fans support team in lost season {page 18-19}

▶ Empty seats have been rare at Citizens Bank Park since the World Series win in 2008, but the bleak outlook the rest of the year could change that.

sports



Phelps swims into Olympic record books

Two medals push total to all-time mark of 19 in his career Visiting London's House of Nations {page 17}

Paging 'Dr. Horrible'

The CW takes on musical project of Joss Whedon and Neil Patrick Harris {page 10}

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From South Philly bookmaking to West Hollywood

Former Bruno family mobster heads to Los Angeles He's helping his daughter run a gay nightclub And dealing with his son's sexuality

Louis "Big Lou" Verdi, 61, is an old-world South Philadelphia Italian who ran the notorious Angelo Bruno family-affiliated restaurant La Strada, busted in 1983 for serving as a front for illegal gambling and loan sharking.

After more than three decades of arrests placed him in and out of prison, the former mobster left the crime family for what Logo TV calls "a new type of modern family" — garnering a reality show, "In the Big House," that documents his move to West Hollywood. There, he settles in with his estranged ex-wife Dotsi and their two children — the "unapologetically out" Louis Jr. and Michel who, with her husband Jay Krymis, owns popular gay club Fubar.

"I feel like we are the modern family," Louis Jr. said on the phone Monday after picking up Big Lou from the airport, where he had just returned from a Jersey Shore trip. "A gay son, a father trying to deal with that, the economy — my parents had to move in with us, and I think a lot of people are experiencing that now."

And so goes the tagline of this fish-out-of-water culture clash comedy: "Family is a life sentence." The show's first episode, which premiered last Monday, revolves around Big Lou meeting his son's longtime boyfriend and coming to terms with his lifestyle. "He's my son, he's alive — it's not the worst thing in the world," Big Lou said. "They tell me he's happy. That, I can accept. I'll make it real simple: The only thing I can't figure out is how can you be happy if something's up your butt. It's just irritating."

He said that he has come to terms with his son's sexual preference. "I cried in the beginning," he admitted. "I thought me not being there might've caused it, so sometimes I blamed myself. But he said, 'No, dad, I just knew it.' I don't believe in genes and there ain't nobody on my side of the family that's gay — maybe he got it from his mother. All I say is I accept it."

Louis Jr. said that he is particularly eager to forge a relationship after a childhood talking to his dad over phones and through glass windows. "Just growing up without a father is hard on its own, and then having a father that people perceive to be a bad guy is worse," Louis Jr. said. "But it's different now. I think the show is definitely helping us build a relationship."

Showtime

Big Lou found, strangely enough, that his criminal background trained him well for his new role as an entertainer.

"Now I can be whoever I want," he said. "Now you can see me for real. I was always funny, but I couldn't show that to people, my customers — because what that does, they see the weak side of me and I'm in trouble. So you gotta be a hard guy, and I was being something I really didn't like. You couldn't show them your good side or weak side."

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

COURTESY OF LOGO

"Big Lou" Verdi, center, with his kids, son-in-law and ex-wife, make for wacky television.

Reflecting on golden age of Philly mob

Big Lou still reminisces about what he sees as the golden era of mob culture.

"Angelo was the 'Gentle Don' — no killing, he didn't want drugs," he said. "He said if we start selling drugs, it'll come back on us and on our kids and grandchildren. Today's a little different."

Lou said if he could do it all over again, he wouldn't change a thing.

"All I did was try to make as much money and get out and try to invest it in something good," he said. "Whatever the government didn't take, the lawyer took or my wife took — that's why she looks so good. And then my daughter. I always thought money was everything and was always working, but I wanted them to have the best. If I had to do it all over again, I would do it the same. I believe in crime and crime pays." METRO/AW

In the news

City politician attacked

Police are looking for a man who allegedly assaulted an elderly committeewoman and her son during a home invasion in Cobbs Creek yesterday morning. The suspect allegedly attacked Yvonne Gaines, 87, and her son, 62, in their home on the 5600 block of Catharine Street around 3:10 a.m. METRO/AW

In the news

Voter apathy

Enthusiasm among Americans about voting this year is running behind the levels for 2004 and 2008, according to a Gallup poll. Now, 44 percent said they were enthusiastic about casting a ballot, compared with 48 percent in 2008 and 59 percent in 2004. BLOOMBERG

Bankruptcy over, Philly Orchestra enters new era

CENTER CITY. The Philadelphia Orchestra Association announced yesterday that it has officially emerged from bankruptcy.

"We turn the institution's full focus to what we are all passionate about ... especially as we welcome the electrifying Yannick Nezet-Seguin as music director in October," said president and CEO Allison Vulgamore. The orchestra filed in April 2011. METRO/AW

$100M Claims, debts and liabilities resolved with a $5.49 million settlement — $4.25 million will be paid in a lump sum.

▶ Back to Yannick time.

Sellers sling suggestive shirts at the seashore

NEW JERSEY. Boardwalk merchants hawking tee shirts with sexual innuendos and alcohol or drug references in Wildwood have offended residents and tourists and led at least one woman to lodge a complaint at a recent City Commission meeting, the Press of Atlantic City reported.

Prominently displayed shirts have slogans like "I'll out drink all you b—es," pictures of "sexually suggestive positions" or drug references like a riff on the Adidas logo that reads "Addicted" with a pot leaf.

Mayor Ernie Troiano Jr. reportedly said that the city regularly asks merchants to put the shirts out of view, but they have limited power to force them to do so. METRO

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Philly dubbed 'economical'

PHILADELPHIA. City Controller Alan Butkovitz in his monthly economic report released yesterday dubbed Philadelphia an "economical vacation destination."

His analysis found an average night out in Philadelphia costs about $273 – $48 for a meal, $17 for a taxi, $16 for cocktails and $192 for a hotel stay. That's about 25 percent less than a comparable night out in San Diego or New York City, with an average meal in the Big Apple alone costing $30 more than here. Philly's prices also beat Chicago and Los Angeles. But comparable nights out in San Antonio, Houston, Dallas and San Jose are cheaper, with Phoenix rounding out the low end of the list at $208. METRO

Most expensive

Cities with the most expensive average nights on the town, according to Butkovitz:

- San Diego **$358**
- New York City **$342**
- Chicago **$324**
- Los Angeles **$311**

Bicyclists, beware of cop crackdown

Police from the 3rd District, which covers South Philadelphia from South Street to the Naval Complex and from the Delaware River to Broad Street, have announced a crackdown on bicycle traffic violators, according to the Passyunk Square Civic Association's website.

The post states that from now until Labor Day, bicyclists who don't follow traffic regulations will receive a warning. After that, they will be issued traffic citations.

Under the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code, bicyclists are required to follow the same "rules of the road" as any other motorist in the street, including stopping at stop signs and red lights, riding with traffic on one-way streets, yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks and abiding by speed restrictions. Those who do not can be issued traffic violations handing down the same penalties as those given to motorists.

The memo states that bicyclists can also face the same civil and criminal penalties as motorists if their actions cause an accident, property damage or injury and that bicyclists can similarly be arrested and charged with DUI if they're riding while intoxicated.

Bicyclists aged 12 and older who are caught riding on sidewalks are subject to a $55.50 fine. The same fine is applicable for bicyclists who, having reached their destination, are crossing the sidewalk and do not yield to pedestrians and give an audible signal before passing them.

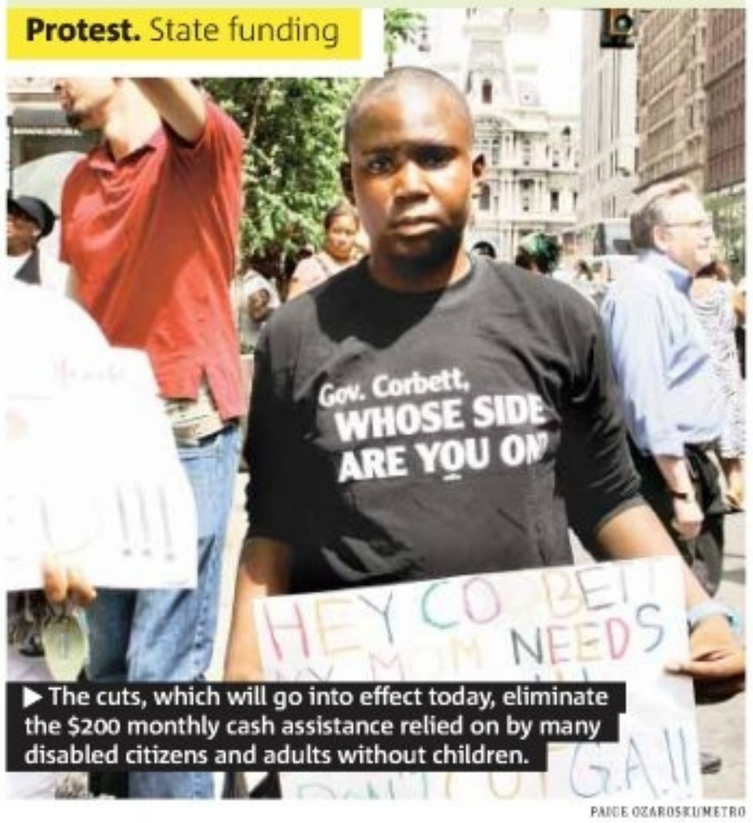
Bicyclists can be further cited for having a bike that's not properly equipped with a reflector or lights, an audible signal device and brakes.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Can't bikers and motorists all just get along?

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

Protest. State funding



▶ The cuts, which will go into effect today, eliminate the $200 monthly cash assistance relied on by many disabled citizens and adults without children.

PAIGE OZAROSKI/METRO

Activists protested yesterday afternoon over Gov. Tom Corbett's elimination of General Assistance funds. A letter to Corbett was hand-delivered to his Philadelphia office calling the governor out for telling the press he would "try to find alternate sources of help." METRO/AW

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Opinion

DANNY CEVALLOS
LEGAL ENTRIES

NCAA FED PENN STATE TO THE LIONS

The NCAA recently announced massive sanctions, fines and even the metaphysical punishment of stripping wins against Penn State. In related news, it's official: As a society, we now rank somewhere between the Aztecs and the Roman Empire. The Aztecs are a long-gone, Mesoamerican culture that specialized in human sacrifice.

Because of course, what better way is there to demonstrate your own deeply held, sincere convictions than by stabbing a random guy on an altar who has nothing to do with your opinions? Elsewhere, the Romans perfected the early version of the Thunderdome and made public execution in the coliseum a compelling spectacle for the bloodthirsty masses. Extreme ceremony over actual remedy. Expressing grief through mass sacrifice or mass punishment. We are now a society that demands symbolic gestures instead of pragmatic solutions. At least it's efficient: Why burn a lot of calories actually doing anything to help individual victims, when you can just take down a statue?

The Freeh report issued in early July highlighted in detail the transgressions of named administrators at the university. It was thorough and compelling. It also was not part of the judicial process. Neither was it part of the usual NCAA process. That's not to say it wasn't accurate, but even Judge Freeh would likely not claim his report is a substitute for an evidentiary hearing and our adversarial system. Yet many sweeping decisions with lasting effects are being based on it.

After the Philadelphia Catholic Priest trial, society is sending another message: We are so angry about child abuse that we are going to hold not only the perpetrator liable, but we're also going after middle management too. That new assistant manager job at the supermarket doesn't look nearly as appealing any more, does it? Because if the guy who slices cheese at the deli counter is harboring kiddie porn, his boss might find a jury adjudging his own criminal ignorance for supervising this employee.

Quoted

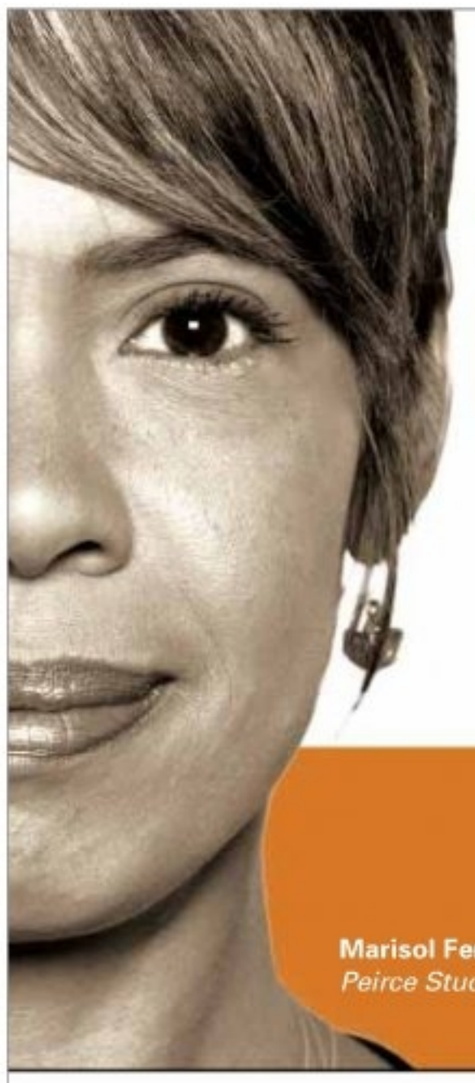
How did the acts of a few specific bureaucrats negate the wins of thousands of other innocent player-athletes? But again, our declining Roman Empire demands public execution once we give our collective thumbs-down.

The punishment handed down by the NCAA was not within the NCAA's jurisdiction. The NCAA exists to ensure a level playing field. I am still waiting to hear how mishandling the Sandusky situation helped Penn State sign one top recruit. How did allegedly harboring a child molester give Penn State a tangible advantage on the gridiron? How did the acts of a few specific bureaucrats negate the wins of thousands of innocent player-athletes? But again, our declining Roman Empire demands public execution once we give our collective thumbs-down. Instead of feeding Christians to the lions, however, we're flogging blameless students and athletes and destroying an entire university because of the acts of, at most, a handful of numbskulls.

As in ancient civilizations, perhaps the greatest threat to the marketplace of ideas is the suppression of the untrendy opinion. Don't stand for it in modern times. If you don't agree with the NCAA's mass sanction-cide, don't preface or caveat your opinion with "I don't agree with child abuse," or "I don't agree with what the administrators did." No one should assume that your dissent with the NCAA's action is tantamount to an endorsement of child abuse. You may find that many others feel the same way as you do, but remain silent, for fear of being socially sanctioned, or maybe just being fed to the lions. I guess we can at least say, as a society, that we've moved on from actual, human sacrifice … that is, until someone makes a reality show out of it.

*– **Attorney Danny Cevallos**, of Philly-based Cevallos & Wong, also writes weekly for Metro.us.*

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Send 100-word submissions to letters@metro.us.



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Pa. official: ID law affects 1 million

State Dept. official announces new figure at hearing over lawsuit filed by ACLU Last week, another official said it could be 186,000 voters in Philly alone

More than 1 million people may be stopped from casting ballots because of a Pennsylvania law requiring voters to present photo identification at the polls, a state official said at a trial challenging the measure.

About 1.5 million prospective voters lack the type of identification needed to cast ballots in November's election, David Burgess, deputy secretary for planning and service delivery at Pennsylvania's Department of State, testified yesterday in state court in Harrisburg.

Backed by Gov. Tom Corbett, a Republican, the state's law requires voters to have a driver's license, state ID or an acceptable alternative such as a military ID, to cast a ballot in the presidential election. The law was enacted in March as similar measures in Republican-led states drew criticism from Democrats, who say they disenfranchise minority, poor and young voters.

620K

Winning margin for President Barack Obama, a Democrat, in Pennsylvania, with 55 percent of the vote in 2008, fewer than the number who may be barred from the polls on Nov. 6

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit in May with 10 Pennsylvania voters as plaintiffs. The group is asking Commonwealth Court Judge Robert E. Simpson to block the law pending a final court decision. Pennsylvania is one of nine states that passed strict laws requiring a photo ID to vote. A weeklong hearing in the case began last Wednesday.

More than 889,000 names on voter registration lists couldn't be matched to records of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, which issues photo IDs. Another 574,630 voters had expired PennDOT identification, Burgess said.

Two weeks ago, the Department of State introduced a new voter ID card, meant to help voters who cannot provide all the documentation needed for a photo ID, such as a birth certificate or Social Security card. Residents will only have to present two proofs of address, their date of birth and social security number.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Thousands of those who voted in previous elections may not be able to receive these stickers in November.

The cards, which will be free of charge, will be issued on the spot starting the last week in August, according to Commonwealth Secretary Carol Aichele. The cards will be issued for a 10-year period and will only be good for voting.

Aichele made the announcement July 23, one day after Democratic Sen. Daylin Leach announced plans to introduce a bill that would repeal the law.

BLOOMBERG

Civil disobedience emerged last week

A Delaware County election official last week vowed not to enforce the state's controversial voter ID law as the court challenge began.

Christopher Broach Sr., a judge of elections in Colwyn Borough, expressed his opposition to the law in an e-mail Wednesday to a local newspaper.

"I am taking the stand against the new Republican voter law and hoping that anyone nationally whom has been elected to an office with the title of judge will do just that," he wrote to the Delaware County Daily Times.

The state department said any election official who violates the law could face a $1,000 fine.

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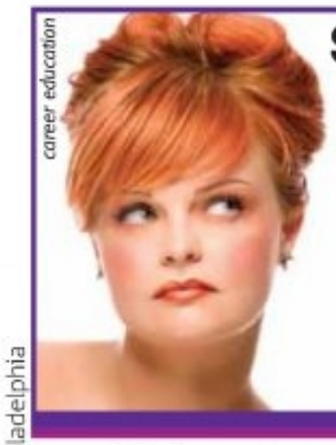

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News in brief

Facebook-friendly Hotmail launched

SEATTLE. Microsoft Corp unveiled a revamped, Facebook-friendly version of its free, online e-mail service yesterday in an attempt to reverse market share losses to Google Inc.'s fast-growing Gmail.

The world's largest software company is renaming its Hotmail service Outlook, giving it a sharp new look, social network links and new features for handling the tide of junk and mass mail that swamps many users.

Hotmail was still the world's largest online mail service as of June, according to the latest comScore figures available, with 324 million users, or about 36 percent of the global market.

But it is losing customers to Google's Gmail, the fastest-growing rival, which now has about 31 percent of the market. Yahoo Mail is static with about 32 percent.

REUTERS

Most Americans favor Medicaid expansion — poll

WASHINGTON. Most Americans back the idea of extending health coverage to their low-income neighbors through the government's Medicaid program, unless it means higher costs for their own state, according to a new poll.

In a survey released yesterday by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation, 67 percent of respondents gave a favorable view of President Barack Obama's healthcare reform provision to "expand the existing Medicaid program to cover more low-income, uninsured adults."

REUTERS

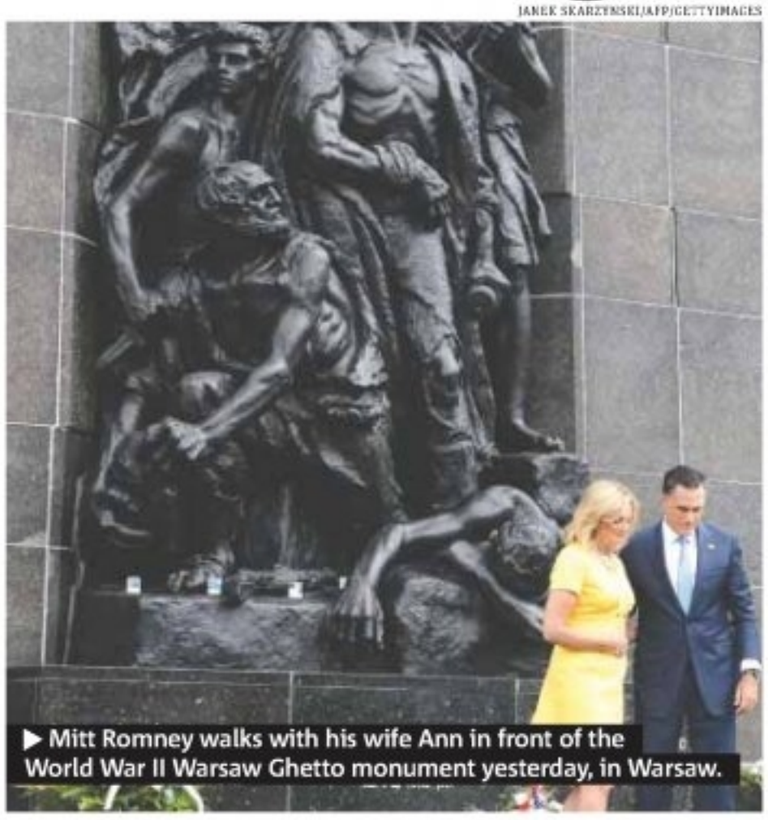
Twitter suspends reporter's account over NBC tweet

SAN FRANCISCO. Twitter Inc. and NBC Universal's move to suppress a British reporter's tweets related to the network's Olympics coverage may have backfired after the incident became fodder for Twitter chatter around the world yesterday.

The microblogging service suspended Guy Adams, the Los Angeles correspondent for London-based daily The Independent, after he sent a tweet on Friday revealing NBC Olympics President Gary Zenkel's e-mail address. **REUTERS**

Romney aide apologizes for sassing foreign media

JANEK SKARZYNSKI/AFP/GETTYIMAGES



▶ Mitt Romney walks with his wife Ann in front of the World War II Warsaw Ghetto monument yesterday, in Warsaw.

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney wrapped up a gaffe-filled European tour by dismissing claims he had undermined his campaign, as one of his aides swore at the media. In an interview with Fox News, Romney said reporters were allowing themselves to be diverted from woes in the U.S. economy and the substance of his own trip, in which he sided strongly with Israel and raised questions about Russian backsliding on democracy.

"There will be some ... who are far more interested in finding something to write about that is unrelated to the economy, to geopolitics, to the threat of war, to the reality of conflict in Afghanistan today, to a nuclearization of Iran," he said.

> **"Governor Romney, are you concerned about some of the mishaps on your trip?"**
>
> **REPORTER, SHOUTING AT ROMNEY**

Romney studiously avoided making any off-the-cuff comments to the media, and — after laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw — ignored shouted questions from reporters keen to get his take on his trip.

Ignoring the questions, Romney strode back to his motorcade vehicle as an aide admonished members of the press. "Kiss my ass," Rick Gorka told reporters. He later apologized.

In TV footage a voice could be heard telling reporters it was not appropriate to shout questions so close to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, "a holy site for the Polish people."

REUTERS

Holyfield sells memorabilia from Tyson ear bite fight

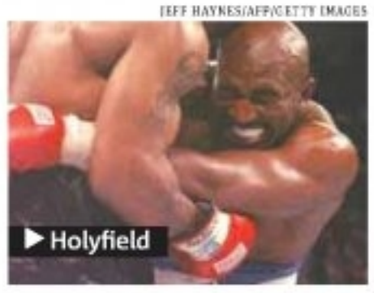
Evander Holyfield is selling the boxing gloves from the heavyweight bout in which Mike Tyson bit off part of his ear, auctioning medals, championship belts and other memorabilia after losing his home to foreclosure.

Holyfield's bronze medal from the 1984 Olympics also will be included, according to an e-mailed statement from Julien's Auctions, which is handling the transactions.

Holyfield, 49, moved out of his 109-room home in Fairburn, Ga., this month after it was sold for $7.5 million in a March foreclosure auction, according to the New York Daily News. He owed more than $14 million on the house and owes in excess of $372,000 in child support, according to Yahoo. He's earned around $250 million during his career.

BLOOMBERG

JEFF HAYNES/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Holyfield

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Second India blackout in as many days cuts power to 670 million

ROBERTO SCHMIDT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Indian porters push a parcels cart over railway tracks near a web of high-voltage line feeders at a train station in New Delhi yesterday. A massive power failure hit India for the second day running as three regional power grids collapsed, blacking out more than half the country.

ROBERTO SCHMIDT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Indian women and children wait inside a darkened train carriage at a railway station in New Delhi yesterday.

Grids supplying electricity to half of India's 1.2 billion people collapsed yesterday, trapping coal miners, stranding train travelers and plunging hospitals into darkness in the second major blackout in as many days.

Stretching from Assam, near China, to the Himalayas and the northwestern deserts of Rajasthan, the outage was the worst to hit India in more than a decade and embarrassed the government, which has failed to build up enough power capacity to meet soaring demand.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has vowed to fast-track stalled power and infrastructure projects as well as introduce free market reforms aimed at reviving India's flagging economy. But he has drawn fire for dragging his feet.

By the afternoon rush hour, only about 40 percent of power was back up. Electricity had not been restored to all of the sweltering capital, New Delhi, and streets were clogged with commuters trying to get home.

"It's certainly shameful. Power is a very basic amenity, and situations like these should not occur," said Unnayan Amitabh, 19, an intern with HSBC bank in New Delhi, as he was giving up on the underground train system and flagging down an auto-rickshaw to get home.

"Even before we could figure out the reason for yesterday's failure, we had more grid failures today."

R. N. NAYAK, CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE-RUN POWER GRID CORPORATION

"They talk about big ticket reforms but can't get something as essential as power supply right."

Power Minister Sushilkumar Shinde blamed the system collapse on some states drawing more than their share of electricity from the overburdened grid.

Asia's third-largest economy suffers a peak-hour power deficit of about 10 percent, dragging on economic growth.

REUTERS

India blackout

- 670 million people were without power in India yesterday – half the population and double the entire population of the USA.
- It's one of the world's biggest-ever power outages.
- Up to 40 percent of the population is not on the national power grid anyway, so much of the country was affected.
- 12 states were affected, from the Chinese border to the border with Pakistan.
- Air conditioning failed in New Delhi where the daytime temperature was 97 degrees, the nighttime high was 81 degrees and humidity was 94 percent.
- The city was gridlocked as traffic lights failed for the entire day.
- More than 4,000 extra police were called in to handle traffic at New Delhi intersection.
- 15-minute journeys were reportedly taking three hours.

METRO

NOTICE OF TECHNICAL HEARINGS ON PROPOSED RATE INCREASES

PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT

At the direction of Hearing Officer Michael A. Bowman, Esquire, and pursuant to Chapter 3, Section 300.7(c)(8) of the Philadelphia Water Department Regulations, notice is hereby given that technical hearings will be held concerning the Philadelphia Water Department's proposal to increase water, sewer, stormwater, fire connection and miscellaneous rates and charges in four steps beginning October 1, 2012. The second, third and fourth steps are proposed to be consecutively implemented on July 1 of 2013, 2014 and 2015.

The rate increases are designed to produce a total of $316.2 million in additional Water Department revenues between October 1, 2012 and June 30, 2016. The effect of the proposed increases on a typical residential water and sewer customer would be as follows:

Effective Date	Additional Monthly Charge	Total Monthly Bill	Percentage Increase
October 1, 2012	$ 3.52	$ 60.95	6.1%
July 1, 2013	3.76	64.71	6.2%
July 1, 2014	4.36	69.07	6.7%
July 1, 2015	4.75	73.82	6.9%

TECHNICAL HEARINGS

Tuesday, August 7, 2012, 10:00 a.m.
1515 Arch Street, 18th floor
Gas Commission Hearing Room

These technical hearings will convene on the above date and continue thereafter at the direction of the Hearing Officer, who will preside over all hearings.

These hearings are technical in nature and will involve participants who wish to present evidence, call witnesses, and/or cross-examine adverse witnesses. All technical hearings are open to the public. The hearing site is wheelchair accessible.

Any person who needs further information, has questions concerning the hearing schedule and procedures or requires special arrangements for persons with disabilities, may call Laura Copeland of the Philadelphia Water Department at 215-685-4902.

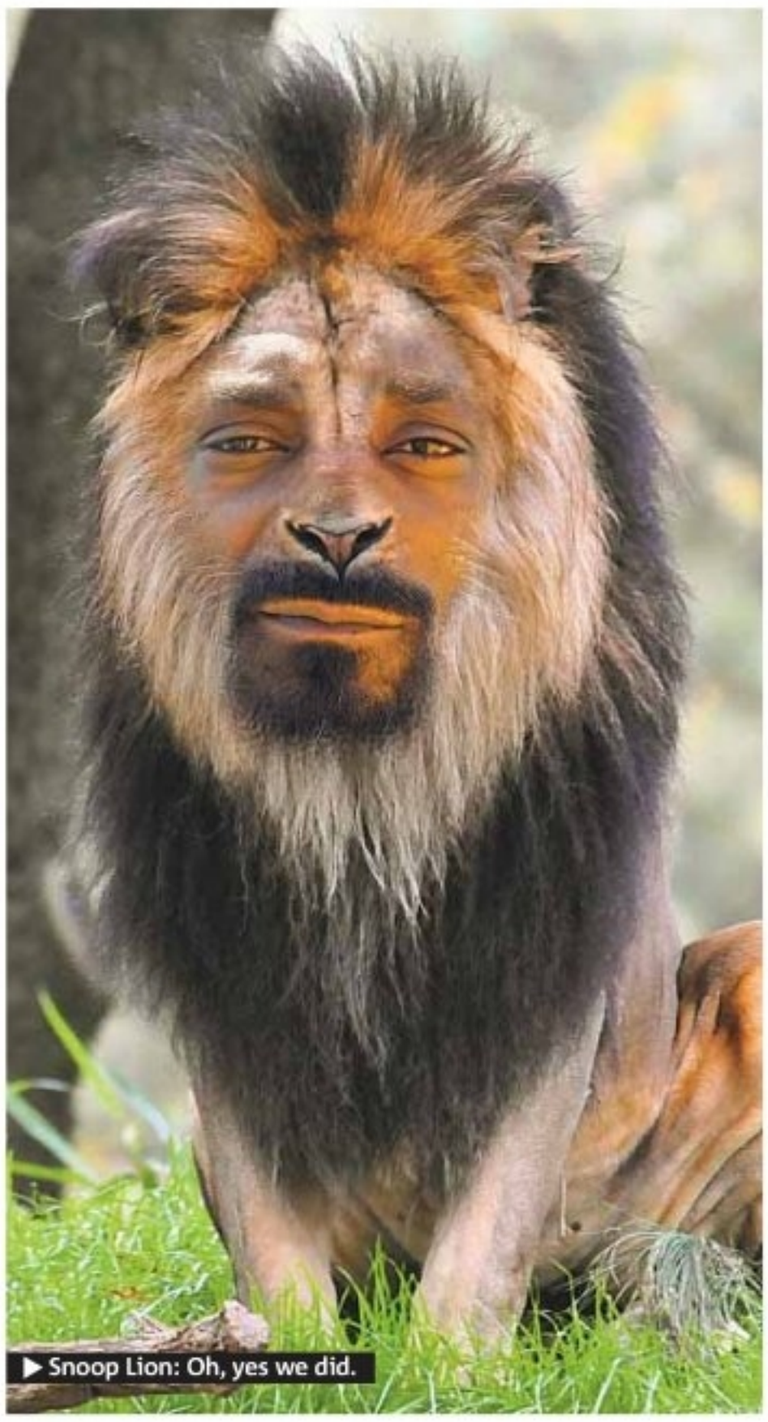
Philadelphia PWD Water Department

myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

What's his name? Snoop Lion



▶ Snoop Lion: Oh, yes we did.

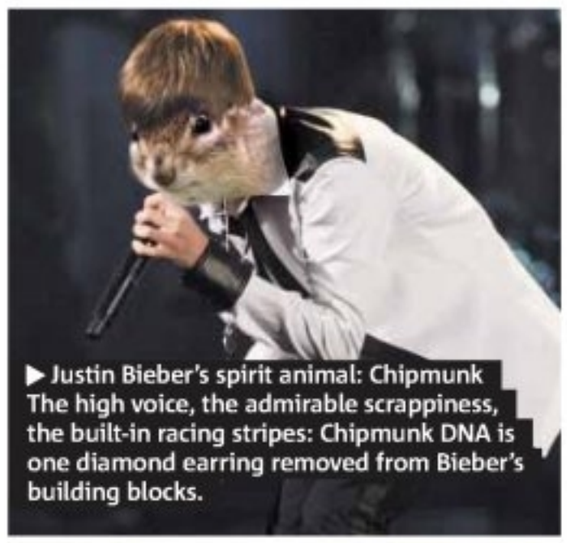
We expected **Snoop Dogg** to change his name again at some point. The rapper — who was born Calvin Cordozar Broadus Jr., christened himself Snoop Doggy Dogg, then dropped the Doggy — was at least one reincarnation behind **Diddy**.

What we didn't expect was that we'd be calling him **Snoop Lion**.

The new name comes after a trip to Jamaica, where he visited with Rastafarian priests. "I want to bury Snoop Dogg, and become Snoop Lion," Snoop revealed at a news conference in New York. "I didn't know that until I went to the temple, where the High Priest asked me what my name was, and I said, 'Snoop Dogg.' And he looked me in my eyes and said, 'No more. You are the light; you are the lion.' From that moment on, it's like I had started to understand why I was there."

Since when did Snoop start sounding like your too-touchy yoga teacher? That's a question for another day. For today, we ask you this: What is **Justin Bieber**'s spirit animal?

▶ Lindsay Lohan's spirit animal: Macaque
Because no other animal is known to both chain smoke and steal.



▶ Justin Bieber's spirit animal: Chipmunk
The high voice, the admirable scrappiness, the built-in racing stripes: Chipmunk DNA is one diamond earring removed from Bieber's building blocks.

▶ Taylor Swift's spirit animal: Gazelle
So graceful, so delicate, so innocent. And yet, we'd be really afraid to fall in her pen.

▶ Tom Cruise's spirit animal: Cockatoo
Perfectly coiffed and dead behind the eyes, both of these creatures have learned to speak gibberish while mimicking humans.

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

@pattonoswalt
If you're selling bed sheets at a Chevron, you probably don't need to bother announcing the thread count.

@SteveMartinToGo
There's a new reality show on NBC called "The Olympics." The judges need to bicker more and berate the contestants.

@AlbertBrooks
Enjoying Olympics. Just found out the high jump has nothing to do with how you watch it.

@azizansari
House of Pain's "Jump Around" is permanently associated w/that Mrs. Doubtfire opening bday party scene.

Aziz Ansari

Talking Points

Katie Holmes is 'doing really great'

It's been a month since **Katie Holmes** filed for divorce from **Tom Cruise**, and apparently the lifestyle change is working out for her. "She's doing really great. She's so strong, she's an independent girl with her own ideas. She is fine," a source close to Holmes tells Us Weekly. Holmes has also reportedly been spending more time with 6-year-old daughter **Suri**. "She wants to really become a parent and start teaching her strong discipline," another source says, explaining that Holmes realized the young girl had become "very demanding and bratty."

Tough accusations for Henry Hopper

Some heavy accusations have been leveled against actor **Henry Hopper**, the 21-year-old son of the late **Dennis Hopper**. According to legal documents obtained by TMZ, the mother of an unidentified 16-year-old girl is suing Hopper over allegations he plied the girl with drugs and alcohol and raped her in his Venice, Calif., home.

Maybe start with a puppy, Rosie

Jason Statham might want to take note: His girlfriend, **Rosie Huntington-Whiteley**, is thinking about motherhood. "I always see myself working, but definitely being a mum will be a big part of me," she tells Elle magazine. "I think my career is very self-indulgent. It's all about me. I'm not a doctor, I'm not looking after people, I'm not saving children. I'm in the entertainment business." According to Huntington-Whiteley, it's time for her "to care about other things."

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Gonna make you sweat

Sure, the Olympics are a stunning display of athletic prowess, endurance and sportsmanship. But they're also packed with international hotties. Here's why we're tuning in:

1. Great Britain is a little lacking in the hot athletes department. One very notable exception: gymnast **Louis Smith**.

2. We can't decide if we prefer French swimmer **Camille Lacourt** dripping wet or toweling off.

3. It's not that triathlete **Sarah Groff** is incredibly hot, but that she's incredibly cool. When CBS published playlists of the Olympians, Saucy Groffy was the only one who had Iggy Pop, Le Tigre, Pixies and Dead Kennedys. Yeah, you kinda need that aggression when you're participating in a sport that requires miles of swimming, biking and running.

4. There's something sexy about a woman and a sword. American fencer **Mariel Zagunis** is trying to defend her two golds in the "saber" competition.

5. Well, her name is **Lolo**.

1: RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES
2: FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP
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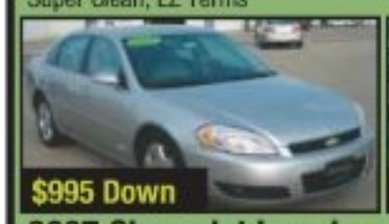
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The CW at TCA: Debut of 'Dr. Horrible,' 'Battle Royale' now in the works

Network head discusses Joss Whedon's online musical adaptation and 'Vampire Diaries' plot twists

"Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog," Joss Whedon's three-part musical starring Neil Patrick Harris, Nathan Fillion and Felicia Day, officially makes its television debut on Oct. 9 at 9 p.m. on The CW, the network announced at the Television Critics Association press tour in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Monday.

The Internet hit, about a budding supervillain (Harris), was created during the Writers Guild of America strike and first ran online in 2008. Mark Pedowitz, president of The CW, said he proactively touched base with Whedon to get "Dr. Horrible" on The CW.

Pedowitz explained that the series will be re-edited for time constraints, so what viewers will see is "basically what's been online."

As for additional "Dr. Horrible" stories, Pedowitz is eager to bring any potential new episodes to The CW. "Hopefully if Joss does another one, we'll get a crack at it," he said.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Joss Whedon and Nathan Fillion approve.

In other cult hit news, Pedowitz said the network would "love to do" a series based on the bloody, futuristic thriller "Battle Royale," a Japanese film released in 2000 with a very "Hunger Games"-like plot: The government forces high-schoolers to fight to the death.

Though Pedowitz says he is a "big believer" in the show, he warns that an adaptation is "at this point in time only in development. Not even in development. Only a phone call."

AMBER RAY
amber.ray@metro.us

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Vampire news

- Regarding sci-fi series that are returning to The CW, Pedowitz said the new season of "The Vampire Diaries" will (spoiler alert!) explore Elena's transition into a vampire and asks: "Does she follow Stefan's path or Damon's path?"
- Considering the series's high body count, Pedowitz confirmed there will be new faces on Season 4, premiering Oct. 11 at 8 p.m. "There are always new characters," he said. "And those who are dead can return."

Technology

Hulu Plus comes to Apple TV

Good news for Apple TV owners: Hulu Plus was quietly added to the device's list of options on Tuesday.

The service went live Tuesday morning, a Hulu rep confirmed. Apple TV currently offers streaming for Netflix, YouTube, Vimeo and Apple's own array of movies, TV shows and podcasts. Hulu Plus costs $7.99 a month — the same price as Netflix's streaming-only service.

Though not as high-profile as the iPhone or the iPad, Apple TV has been a hit for Apple, selling 4 million units over the past fiscal year. Last quarter, Apple sold 1.3 million of the devices compared to Microsoft's 1.1 million Xbox 360s.

TODD WASSERMAN FOR Mashable The Social Media Guide

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Peep these toes

Summer is all about sandals and bright lacquers ◆ New products to keep your feet looking salon fresh

Foot patrol

To keep you in sandals, even in between salon visits, **Butter London** came out with a new line to pamper and sooth heels at home.

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2. Wearing flip-flops on city sidewalks can be icky. Freshen up on the go. **Mucky Pups Foot Wipes, $15**

3. Heal your heels. **Stiletto Stick Hydrating Heel Balm, $30, www.butterlondon.com**

4. It's a silky foot cream and natural deodorant in one. Go ahead, kick off your shoes with confidence. **Kitten Heels Powder Finish Foot Creme, $30**

TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

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The skinny on ice cream

There's no reason to deny yourself a cool, creamy treat Joy's tips for streamlining your soft-serve

Joy's healthy bite

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Four heat waves and counting, it's no surprise ice cream is a hot commodity this summer. While overindulging on cones and cups can pack on the pounds, it's easier than you think to get your cool, creamy fix without feeling the squeeze in your bathing suit.

Most calorie counters eschew ice cream and hit the fro-yo line instead, thinking they're being oh-so-virtuous, but is it really a healthier choice? It depends. Frozen yogurt and light ice cream are both made with low-fat milk, so they're lower in fat and calories than regular, full-fat ice cream. In fact, fro-yo and light ice cream are pretty much identical nutritionally, with the only major difference being that frozen yogurt is made with added cultures. However, not all of these so-called "good bacteria" survive the freezing process. Bottom line: Frozen yogurt and light ice creams tie for first place in the frozen treat category, so go ahead and choose whichever you prefer.

To indulge guilt-free, follow these simple pointers:

1 When it comes to soft serve frozen yogurt or ice cream at your favorite chain, stick with a small cup or go for the wafer cone. At just 20 additional calories, a lightweight wafer cone is a total bargain compared to sugar and waffle varieties, which can tack on 100 extra calories.

2 Keep your cool at the topping bar — choose just one of your favorite add-ons to keep the calories from skyrocketing. If you're looking for the healthiest toppers, opt for fresh fruit, chopped nuts or dark chocolate chips.

3 When you're buying hard-packed light ice creams and frozen yogurts at the grocery store, I recommend brands that have no more than 150 calories, 20 grams sugar and 4 grams saturated fat per half-cup serving. Use the same guidelines for individual bars, sandwiches and other frozen novelties.

*— For more tips on healthy eating, follow **Joy Bauer** on Facebook and Twitter (@joybauer) and visit **www.joybauer.com.***

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

Quoted

"Bottom line: Frozen yogurt and light ice cream tie for first place in the frozen treat category, so go ahead and choose whichever you prefer."

TRIMSTOCK

▶ Opt for a small cup or cone — and watch the toppings — on your next ice cream run.

Tasty finds

▶ **Stonyfield "Oikos" Greek Frozen Yogurt:** Stonyfield turned their rich, creamy, nonfat Greek yogurt into a frozen dessert, and it's a winner. The yogurt base gives it a terrific tangy flavor, plus an impressive 6 grams of protein per serving, more than most frozen desserts.

▶ **Power of Fruit bars:** Power of Fruit bars are made with 100 percent fruit (no added sugar or artificial ingredients) and clock in at just 30 calories a pop (that means you can have two ... or three!). They're packaged in the same skinny tube shape as sugary "freeze pops," so they're an easy swap-out for kids.

▶ **Ciao Bella "Blueberry Passion" Sorbet Bars:** Each luscious, fruity pop is just 70 cals — a great dairy-free frozen dessert.

▶ **Breyers "1/2 the Fat" Ice Cream:** Breyers reformulated their light ice cream line and it truly is creamier than ever. They offer all the classics, plus a few decadent blends like Coffee Fudge Brownie, for 100 to 130 calories per half a cup.

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Health advice

No sugar-coating here: The deal with sweeteners

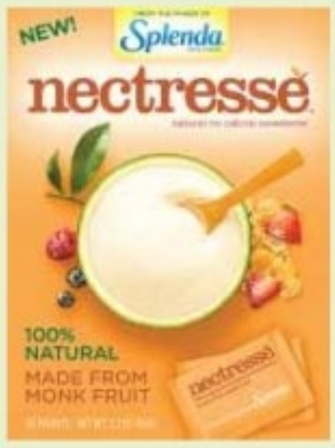
When it comes to the sweet stuff, how bad is bad? We asked Anne Rollins — a nutritional consultant for Boston's Joint Ventures Physical Therapy and Fitness centers — to evaluate the pros and cons.

Cane sugar: "I don't think it's as bad as it's presumed to be. The problem is the excessive amount we eat, because it's added to everything and it doesn't contribute vitamins and minerals."

High-fructose corn syrup: "I rarely say never eat something, but I'd say never eat high-fructose corn syrup. Research has shown that it turns off leptin receptors and has an impact on cholesterol, leading to higher levels of bad cholesterol."

Stevia: "Stevia is a plant, but the sweetener is extracted and processed and refined. People think it's better than sugar, because it has zero calories. Truvia is just a brand name for a stevia sweetener."

Equal: "Equal is made from aspartame. Aspartame was found to cause brain tumors, but there wasn't much research that followed up that finding. But once the alarm bells went off, it stuck."



Nectresse: "This is a zero-calorie sweetener manufactured by the makers of Splenda. Nectresse uses an extract from monk fruit, a melon found in Asia. The extract is a sugar alcohol — sugar alcohols are known to cause gastrointestinal [problems]; however, the makers claim this product [doesn't] cause GI upsets. Because of its newness, we do not have any research regarding long-term effects or side effects."

Splenda and Sweet'N Low: "Sweet'N Low is actually sugar that's been molecularly altered. What that does in the body isn't really known. Splenda is another artificial sweetener derived from sugar. Many artificial sweeteners start as a plant."

Agave nectar: "This is one I like a lot. It's from a plant, it's natural and it doesn't affect the glycemic index like sugar, because it doesn't break down into glucose. It's the best one to lessen the risk of diabetes and endocrine issues."

Honey: "Honey is very good. There's great research on its antibacterial and antimicrobial properties. So, you're adding an immunity-fighting element to your diet. Plus it's very sweet, so you use less."

LINDA CLARKE

Recent findings from global Alzheimer's Association meeting

This month's Alzheimer's Association International Conference in Vancouver, Canada, unveiled new research into the condition's causes and possible "cure." Here's what we learned.

▶ Beta-amyloid protein plaque buildup in the eyes might be an early indicator of Alzheimer's disease.

STOCKBYTE

1 Eyes: Not just a window to the soul: Cedars-Sinai researchers presented a new method of monitoring Alzheimer's. They said that the same beta-amyloid protein plaque buildup in the brain that is thought to be a cause or contributor to Alzheimer's is also found in the retina. Because deposits can be seen in the retina before they accumulate in the brain, noninvasive monitoring via retinal imaging could be used for early detection.

2 Blood pressure enzyme works on the brain: Cedars-Sinai also presented the results of targeted use of angiotensin-converting enzyme, which is often used to control blood pressure, in breaking down one of the peptides that forms the aforementioned brain plaque. Thus, the body's own immune response may help fight this damaging disease.

3 Added alcohol consumption increased dementia risk: Two studies suggest that alcohol use ups one's chance of cognitive decline. In the 20-year study's final phase, moderate drinkers were around 60 percent more likely to develop cognitive impairment. Astoundingly, nondrinking women who took up drinking later had a 200 percent increased risk.

4 Gait change could be a sign of cognitive impairment: Swiss researchers unveiled data suggesting that alterations in the way people walk as they get older could be linked to a weakening in brain function. Their study found that patients with Alzheimer's were more likely to walk slower than their healthy counterparts. The researchers want doctors to monitor gait and further test anyone with such changes for cognitive failure.

LINDA CLARKE
letters@metro.us

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Letters

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Diversity includes all sorts of opinions

Speaker Quinn, like politicians across the country, wants to block the Chick-fil-A franchise from the city.

She says this is because we are city that believes in diversity.

If this is true, we should also be city that respects the right to divergent views.

CAROLYN DAVIS, VIA E-MAIL

Purse power best way to show views

Everyone has the right to eat or trade where they will, but we must understand the power of the purse. Especially in these tough economic times, businesses need your money.

The best way to let a company know we won't tolerate hate and bigotry, especially in the name of religion, is to keep your money in your wallet and walk on by.

Just say no. Your heart and the LGBT community will thank you.

KIM WILLIAMS, VIA E-MAIL

Gun control: Either no one or everyone should be armed?

After reading the article about gun control and Erich Pratt's comments suggesting that if more people in the theater were armed, the body count would have been less, nearly drove me insane. Picture a packed theater with armed people exchanging fire with who knows who because it's dark and no one knows who the initial shooter is because everyone's shooting blindly.

Yes we need gun control alright, not just for the weapons but for these kind of gun owners with such reckless ideas like that.

JONATHAN PERRY, VIA E-MAIL

Gun control: When all guns are finally outlawed, ONLY the outlaws will have them.

JIM ALVIN, VIA E-MAIL

Wealthy are worth more to country

What difference does it make if Gov. Romney shows us his tax returns from this year or 30 years ago. Some people would still not vote for him anyway.

Gov. Romney is a very smart, successful, wealthy businessman.

We should all be so fortunate.

In times of economic trouble, like him or not, he could turn this country around.

JOHN MCLAUGHLIN, VIA E-MAIL

When will the dead wood of society shut up or at the very least, be embarrassed about their demands for others to do their "fair share"? You couldn't buy a curbstone for what you parasites put into the system.

I may not be a huge Romney fan or of the "wealthy," BUT I know that he puts way more into the system in a single year than I (and my friends and family) will put into it in a lifetime.

Don't give me that "effective tax rate" crap either — 10 percent of Romney is far more valuable than 99 percent of your net worth, and he still only gets one vote.

YOU don't pay a fair share, but still get more than your share of services, so stop crying already.

JOSHUA D. TORDOFF, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Even though you might not believe it to be true, your judgment is excellent. Don't ponder on things to the point of confusion, causing you to err on the side of caution.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Financial matters could be a bit tricky for you, so move slowly when dealing with them. In order to stay in the profit column, do not allow your expenditures to overpower your resources.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Certain friends whom you enjoy might not appeal to your mate or family. You'd better get your family's approval if you want to include your pals on a guest list you're assembling.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Due to an unusual change, unearned benefits might come your way. If you fail to share your good luck with others, the source might be shut down.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Because you're a bit impulsive, there is a strong possibility that you could do something that would arouse feelings of giver's remorse.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** A wonderful opportunity might unexpectedly manifest, but it won't be offered solely to you. You must be quick to act on it before others beat you to the punch.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Although you are likely to be fortunate when you are left solely to your own devices, this same luck may not be present with any involvements that you share with others.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Analyze all joint endeavors very carefully, because they could contain more problems than promises. Make sure each component is examined for its own merit.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Don't let it be said of you that you're a nice person only as long as everybody agrees with you. Be kind to everyone.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** The way you're handling a financial matter may not be optimal, but if you see that it's working fairly well so far, don't switch plans this late in the game.

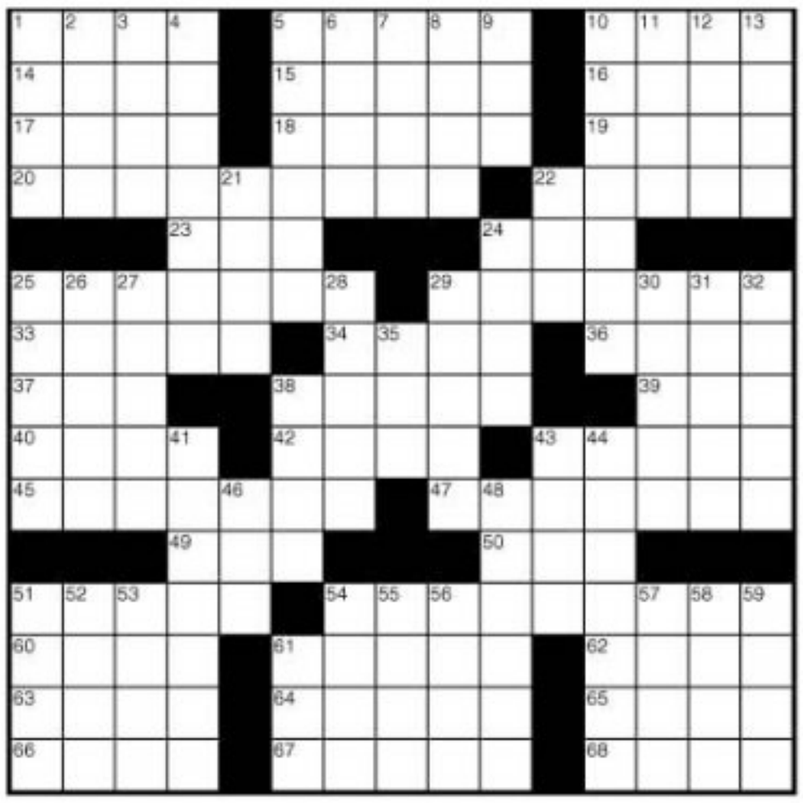
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** You should do OK when you rely upon yourself to make sure you have an environment in which you can work, but when you depend upon others, it'll be anybody's guess.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** If there is an objective you're presently pursuing that is substantial and meaningful, don't let anybody convince you it would be impossible to achieve and thus stop your quest.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Sci-fi menace
5 Gnat
10 Dewlap
14 Volkswagen kin
15 Midway alternative
16 Oscar's cousin
17 Plane needing little runway
18 Kind of blockade
19 "Bonanza" role
20 Wooed with music
22 Bumbling
23 Singer __ Damone
24 "Kidnapped" monogram
25 Mature
29 Stonework
33 Goes like a siren
34 Drench
36 Weather grp.
37 Joule fraction
38 Move to the beat
39 Business abbr.
40 Director __ Kazan
42 Dairy-case buy
43 Merriment
45 France's neighbor
47 __ and dearest
49 Scrap of cloth
50 FBI acronym
51 Kid's wheels
54 Plate __
60 Freedom org.
61 Danish islands
62 Town east of Wichita
63 Avoid
64 Of longer standing
65 Miscellanies
66 Listen carefully
67 Arranges for
68 Point the finger at

Down
1 Game fish
2 Pear-shaped instrument
3 Skunk's forte
4 Kind of house (hyph.)
5 Albert's realm
6 __ __ no idea!
7 Brubeck of jazz
8 June celebrant
9 Slippery fish
10 Houston Space Center
11 A woodwind
12 Bit of straw
13 For fear that
21 Rock guitarist __ Lofgren
22 They, in Calais
24 Leaf collector
25 Hardly Mr. Cool
26 Bogart's "High Sierra" role
27 Solemn watch
28 Choir selection
29 Little Richard's hometown
30 Bete __
31 Carries on
32 Luxury craft
35 Four quarters
38 QB __ Williams
41 Stuck, as a ship
43 Warm-water shark
44 Farsi speaker
46 John, in Glasgow
48 Diners
51 Hamper contents
52 Aspirin target
53 Stick together
54 Farfetched
55 Wagnerian role
56 "Fargo" director
57 New Rochelle college
58 Quahog
59 Info request encl.
61 Vain fellow



6		9				2		
4	1			6	3	5	9	
			9				4	8
			8					
	5		6	7	4		3	
					9			
9	4				5			
	3	7	4	8			5	1
		6				7		4

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

			2			7		8
				6	9		2	
		4				9	1	6
	1	3	5					
4		7		2		5		1
					8	3	9	
1	4	9				6		
	5		6	9				
3		2			5			

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

B	O	G	G	L	E	■	G	A	D	■	F	L	I	C
B	A	R	R	E	L	■	A	L	E	■	U	H	O	H
S	T	R	I	V	E	■	R	I	A	■	R	A	N	I
■	■	L	I	V	I	N	G	F	O	S	S	I	L	■
W	A	L	L	S	■	R	E	N	■	P	E	A	C	E
H	U	E	S	■	B	O	T	■	K	E	A	■	■	■
O	R	A	■	U	R	N	■	C	U	R	L	E	R	S
O	A	F	■	P	O	I	■	I	D	A	■	P	U	N
P	S	Y	C	H	I	C	■	N	O	S	■	S	P	A
■	■	O	I	L	■	R	E	S	■	B	O	E	R	■
S	T	A	L	L	■	G	E	M	■	A	I	M	E	E
M	U	D	D	L	E	H	E	A	D	E	D	■	■	■
E	R	I	E	■	A	O	K	■	O	R	D	A	I	N
A	B	E	S	■	R	U	E	■	F	I	E	R	C	E
R	O	U	T	■	■	L	L	D	■	F	E	N	C	E	D

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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Games and beer: It's on the House

Quoted

"Drinking is a big part of the culture of England. You can't pay to get into every venue. ... This is good for the local businesses."
KELTON SCOTT, ENGLAND

For the gold

CASSANDRA GARRISON
CASSANDRA.GARRISON@METRO.US

CASSANDRA GARRISON/METRO

▶ Fans take in the men's 4x200 freestyle relay at one of the international Houses.

London has an extreme case of Olympic fever, and the medicine for it is beer.

For the thousands of fans who did not score tickets to events, London has set up multiple public viewings, where big-screen TVs show the events live. Nothing makes a better match than drinking and sports, and that's where the Houses of Nations come in.

These unique pop-up venues dot the city map, each offering a familiar place for fans of many countries, with traditional fare, screenings of events with local athletes — and don't forget the beer.

"If you haven't got tickets, you get the atmosphere here, which is better than watching at home on your couch," Andy Pronger, a Team Great Britain fan told Metro from inside a giant tented bar next to London Tower. White leather couches and strings of lights across the ceiling would give off the impression of an nightclub, if it weren't for the sports coverage being aired on giant projector screens.

Pingpong tables and arcade games bring fans from all countries together in their own friendly competitions. Some Houses of Nations are hangouts for all international fans, while others are geared toward specific nationalities. Fans can find Casa Brazil, Czech House, French Olympic Village, Russia Park and many more. There isn't a specific place for Team USA fans, but many Americans find their way to one of the two "come one, come all" Houses of Nations.

"I really like it here," American student Rachel Eldridge told Metro as she drank Pimms with other American and British friends. "It's a cool venue to watch the games, enjoy it and be a part of it, and not have to pay for the 200-pound tickets."

Kelton Scott and his wife, Heidi, came to the House of Nations not for a drink, but to get a photo with an official Olympic torch — one of the many incentives the pop-up bars offer to bring fans in from off the street — but that's not to say they, and many other fans, haven't spent plenty of time in London's rich pub scene.

*– **Cassandra Garrison** is covering the Olympics live from London. Follow her at @CassieAtMetro.*

The games in pictures

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

1 **Jordyn Wieber** celebrates as the U.S. women's gymnastics team is announced as gold medalists.

2 America's **Allison Schmitt** destroyed the rest of the field in the 200-meter freestyle, winning by almost two seconds.

3 **Jennifer Kessy**, one half of the U.S. beach volleyball team you don't know, beat the Netherlands to stay undefeated.

4 **Tyson Chandler** denies the Tunisian offense in a 47-point rout in their second game.

5 Doping allegations didn't keep **Ye Shiwen** from winning her second gold, this in the 200-meter IM.

Medal count

	G	S	B
1. CHINA	13	6	4
2. UNITED STATES	9	8	6
3. JAPAN	1	4	8
4. FRANCE	4	3	4
5. SOUTH KOREA	3	2	3
6. ITALY	2	4	2
7. RUSSIA	2	2	4
8. GERMANY	2	3	1
9. AUSTRALIA	1	3	2
10. ROMANIA	1	2	2

Tune in

Three events to catch today:

▶ American Kathleen Hersey, the top qualifier in the women's 200-meter butterfly, faces off against the Chinese favorites. Cammile Adams (USA) will compete in both the 200-meter fly and pair up with Missy Franklin and crew in the 4x200 freestyle.

▶ United States flag bearer Mariel Zagunis begins her quest for a third gold medal in fencing as she competes in the individual sabre.

▶ Women's doubles tennis has reached the quarterfinals and both U.S. teams are still alive. The favorites are Venus and Serena Williams, who will face Italy. The two have won five doubles titles at Wimbledon, including one a few weeks ago.

MARK OSBORNE

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Brown

Welcome to whole new era of Phillies baseball

Domonic Brown has long been viewed as the Phillies' golden boy, a five-tool prospect that would someday become the face of the franchise. Well, that day is here.

In the middle of spinning two separate deals yesterday — one that sent Shane Victorino to the Dodgers, another that shipped Hunter Pence to the Giants — the Phillies recalled Brown from Triple-A Lehigh Valley. It was widely assumed Brown would start last night in the now-depleted Phillies outfield. However, his flight to Washington, D.C., didn't arrive in time. He'll likely make his debut today.

Two years ago, Brown was expected to take over as the starting right fielder. But the 24-year-old struggled in spring training, then broke his wrist. This past spring, he lost a battle with John Mayberry Jr. and Laynce Nix in left field so GM Ruben Amaro opted to keep him in the minors. Brown admitted he was disappointed, but he remained upbeat.

"I kind of believe that if you play hard, do things the right way, great things are going to happen for you," Brown told reporters in February. "If you think great, you're going to be great."

Now Brown has a two-month tryout to show the big club what he's got. Play well, and chances are he's starting somewhere in the outfield in 2013. Play poorly, and the Phils might be in trouble. Either way, change — even drastic change — was necessary.

"I've heard the old saying, 'When you're in last place, you can try any damn thing.' Really. I look at it that way," Charlie Manuel told reporters. "We ain't got but one place to go, and that's up."

MIKE GREGER
mgreger@metro.us

When will streak end?

The Phillies have sold out 270 straight games, including the postseason, a string dating back to July 2009. Even as the team struggled this season, it continued.

But, with fan favorites like Shane Victorino and Hunter Pence removed from the lineup, it appears that run is just about over.

Or, as skipper Charlie Manuel said yesterday, "[2008] does feel like it was a pretty good while ago."

And don't think that homefield advantage doesn't have an impact on players. One former Phillie went out of his way to compliment the city.

"The fans made it an absolute blast to play for, so it was a great experience," said Pence, who spent just one year here. "I had nothing but great memories here."

With a make-shift product on the field the rest of the way — and out of the pennant race — the question is how much longer can the streak last?

"We know at some point it is going to end," Phils vice president of ticket sales, John Weber, said recently.

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Josh Lindblom

▶ **Scouting report:** This 25-year-old, right-handed reliever can provide immediate help in a dismal bullpen. Lindblom went 2-2 with 43 strikeouts (3.02 ERA) for the Dodgers. Relies on fastball, which can hit 95 mph.

Ethan Martin

▶ **Scouting report:** Tons of upside. Right-hander was 15th overall pick in 2009 draft. The 23-year starter features fastball and a devastating curve that is ranked as best in Dodgers farm system, per Baseball America.

Seth Rosin

▶ **Scouting report:** Rosin seems to be the throw-in player. The right-handed reliever/starter went 2-1 with a 4.31 ERA for the Giants' Class-A affiliate. However, the 23-year-old did average more than a strikeout per inning.

Nate Schierholtz

▶ **Scouting report:** This 28-year-old has struggled with maturity at times — did or didn't he request a trade? — but has shown flashes of greatness. Hit .278 with nine homers and 41 RBIs in 2011, his best season.

Tommy Joseph

▶ **Scouting report:** Depending on how fast he develops, the young catcher (21) could be groomed to replace Carlos Ruiz. Joseph needs to work on his defense, but has plenty of pop, with 46 homers in 324 minor-league games.

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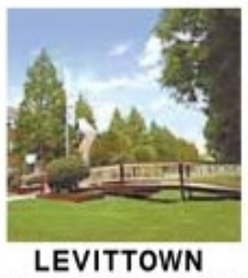
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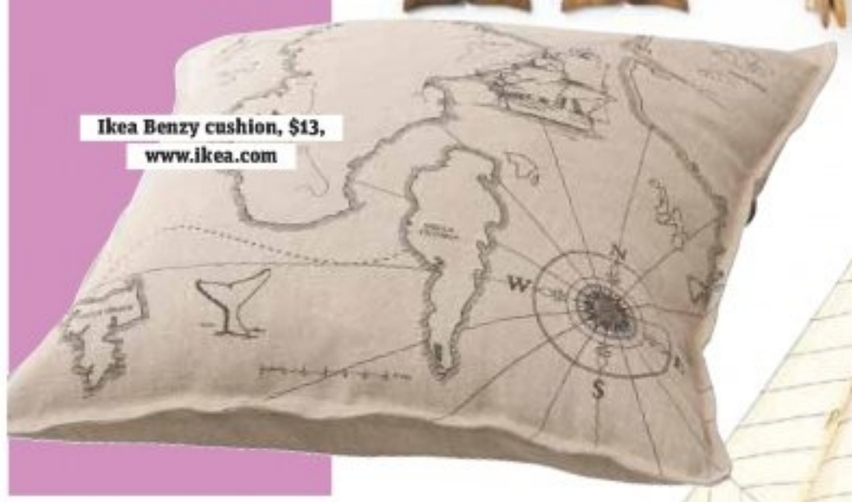

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Roommate code of conduct

- More people move in the summer than any other time of the year
- Before you sign a lease, read Rent.com's advice for cohabitating bliss

Before you and your roomie get into one of those silent treatment standoffs because he or she never replaces the toilet paper roll, we suggest you learn how to live in harmony now. According to Rent.com's recent roommate survey, about half of the respondents (45 percent) admitted to having issues with a current or past roommate.

Their biggest pet peeves: a messy mate (20 percent), followed by someone who doesn't pay bills on time (10 percent) and someone who uses things without asking (9 percent). Rounding out the complaints was a roommate who constantly has people over (6 percent). If you're guilty of one or more of these, it's time to make your roommate a batch of brownies — and clean the bathroom already.

Here is Rent.com's advice to cohabitating bliss:

▶ Communication is the key to a happy home.

MONKEY BUSINESS

Keep it real
Before you sign a lease, it's important for your roommate to understand your schedule. If you are an "early to bed, early to rise" kind of person, a roommate who works on mixing his DJ tracks at night may not be your best bet.

Divvy the bills
Decide on when and how bills and rent will be paid for before making the roommate bond permanent. For instance, if one person is in charge of utilities, make the other in charge of submitting the rent check each month.

Clean up
As indicated by the survey, keeping clean is a must. It's important to divide cleaning responsibilities so the burden is shared. Be sure to discuss expectations for cleaning before you sign on the dotted line. Talk about who will clean what and how often, and what's acceptable in terms of daily and weekly upkeep. METRO

Talk it out

Working to communicate your needs and expectations to one another is crucial for a happy roommate relationship. For example, if your roommate is a student and wants to use the kitchen table to study, don't watch TV loudly in the same room during study hours. Likewise, if you're hosting a small "Bachelorette" season finale party, give your roommate fair warning to make other plans.

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Angel Carrion, Jane D. Kent/St. Nicholas Day Care, Mary Solmssen, Arnold Berman, Frank & Jovan Regalis, Joe Carter, Roy Amariglio, Barabas Jones, Lillian Caskey, Xavier McAdoo, Jeri Cheatham, Bianco Fargnoli, Doris Colosimo, Miriam Clay-Seda, Al Burton, Cindy Knight, Robert Willie, Cathy Amsterdam, Diane Gordan,
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C218, Juan Guerrero,	household items	L137, Melissa Churchill,	household items
F534, Brenda Vazquez,	household items	L141, Milagros Reyes,	household items
H733, Zoila Lopez,	household items	S115, Emelia Robaina,	household items
I827, Erica Gil-Reyes,	household items	S127, Edgardo Rivera,	household items
I829, Jesse Ramos,	household items	S706, Emily Ruiz,	household items
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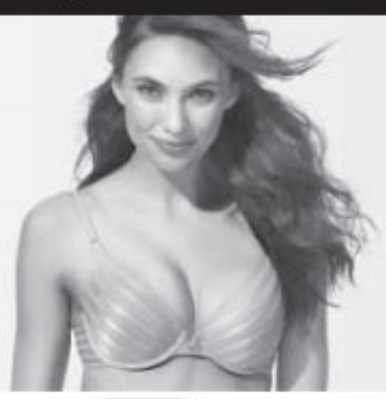

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